Performance of News Readers of Doordarshan

4866. SHRI SHARAVAN KUMAR PATEL: *Will the Minister of* INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING *be pleased to state:*

(a) whether the performance of news-readers of Doordarshan has been reviewed;

(b) if so, whether any reshuffle in their gradation of reallocation of time-slots or removal had been effected;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the newsreaders have made representations against the move; and

(e) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). No general reshuffle of News Readers or reallocation of time-slots or removal has been effected as a result of the review.

(d) and (e). Some News Readers have submitted a representation based on the reports in a Section of the Press.

Doordarshan is of the view that more training is necessary to further improve the performance of the news presenters.

[*Translation*]

Policy regarding allotment of Land to workers of Co-operative Societies

4867. SHRI RAM SARAN YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Government for providing land of the Union Government to workers of Co-operative Societies in various States for preparing salt; and

(b) whether this land is allotted on fixed rates or on the basis of tenders called therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) and (b). Salt Department lands are allotted, inter-alia, to the Co-operative Societies in the salt manufacturing States for manufacture of salt for a particular period on lease basis on the basis of tenders.

[*English*]

TV Transmitter at Jabalpur

4868. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the target set up by the Government for commissioning of 10 KW TV Transmitter in Jabalpur;

(b) whether the target has been achieved; if not, how far it is behind the schedule and the reasons thereof; and

(c) the date by which the tower of the Transmitter is likely to be completed and the transmission is likely to start?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) The high power (10KW) TV transmitter at Jabalpur was initially planned to be commissioned during 1991-92.

(b) and (c). There has been some delay in construction of the tower as excavation of hard rock bottom at the tower site, by blasting, was not allowed by the local authorities

because of a building existing nearby and this had to be done by chiselling, which took considerable time; and due to the difficulties encountered in procurement of the requsite quantity of cement and steel.

As per present indications, the transmitter is envisaged to be commissioned during the first half of 1993.

[*Translation*]

Exemption from Entertainment Tax for Theatre Shows

4869. SHRI KASIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to exempt all the Theater shows from entertainment tax:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) the scheme of legislative powers for the States and the Union Government under the Constitution gives complete powers to the State Governments in the matter of levy of entertainment tax for exhibition of films. The Central Government do not have statutory powers to issue directions to State Governments for levying entertainment tax The relevant Entry in the State List reads as follows:

Entry 62- Taxes on luxuries, including taxes on entertainments, amusements, betting and gambling.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As above.

[*English*]

Implementation of I. Ramamohan Rao Committee Report

4870. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Federation of Small & medium Newspapers has demanded the implementation of the I. Ramamohan Rao Committee Report;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Government have already initiated action for acceptance of the report for implementation.

Closure of Cinema Houses

4871. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cinema houses closed during each of the last three years and the reasons therefor; and

(b) the action the Government proposed to take cinema industry out of crisis?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b). The information is being col-